

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6380**  
**BILL NUMBER: SB 278**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 28, 2013  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** School Buses.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Breaux  
**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill has the following provisions:

*School Bus Lettering:* The bill provides that the State School Bus Committee shall adopt rules to require that each new school bus operated by or on behalf of a school corporation bear the name of the school district on the back of the school bus.

*Physical Examination:* The bill provides that an individual who is or intends to become a school bus driver must obtain a physical examination certificate by an individual who is registered in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners. It provides that a school corporation shall determine how a certified medical examiner is chosen for the physical examination, and who must pay for the physical examination.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2014.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *School Bus Lettering:* The cost to the State School Bus Committee for adopting the rules required by this provision would be minimal.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Summary:*

*a. School Bus Lettering:* The impact would depend on local action. For those school corporations that are already fulfilling the requirements of this provision, there would be no impact. For those that are not, the cost would be borne by existing budgets unless the funds are appropriated by the General Assembly.

According to the Department of Education, the cost to print the name of the school corporation on each new school bus would be between \$25 and \$150 per bus.

*b. Physical Examination:* The impact would depend on local action. Under current law, the cost of the physical examination is borne by the school bus driver. Under this bill, the school corporation would decide who would pay for the physical. The cost for a physical averages between \$75 and \$100.

*Additional Information- Physical Examination:* All commercial motor vehicle drivers (including school bus drivers) are required to get a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) physical at least once every two years. School bus drivers in Indiana are also required to get a state physical fitness certificate every two years in addition to the CDL physical.

Currently, the CDL physical can be done by a physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or chiropractor. On the other hand, the state physical fitness certificate can only be done by an Indiana-licensed physician or a physician in a surrounding state.

Effective May 14, 2014, the only medical examiners eligible to administer the CDL physical would be those who have met the requirements to become a Certified Medical Examiner for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. This bill would permit a medical examiner doing the CDL physical to also issue the state physical fitness certificate for a school bus driver. It takes about 40 hours of training to become initially certified.

The requirements for the state physical are more stringent than for the CDL, but would be well within the capabilities of an examiner certified to perform CDL physicals. As a result, school bus drivers may only have to go to a single medical facility to obtain both physicals.

There are currently about 130 Certified Medical Examiners in the state. There are approximately 23,000 school bus drivers in the state.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** State School Bus Committee.

**Local Agencies Affected:** School corporations.

**Information Sources:** Michael LaRocco, Office of School Transportation, Dept. of Education, 317-232-0890.

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